

May 12, 1987

LB 218A, 736A, 784

218A and 736A all to Select File. (See pages 2211-12 of the Legislative Journal.) That's all that I have, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Next item on 784.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next item I have is by Senator Withem and Senator Smith.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, will you be handling the amendment?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President and members of the body, the particular amendment that I'm offering will eliminate from the budget the \$1.9 million cut that is currently in the budget in the area of state aid to education. Let me repeat that because a lot of people still don't understand that there is currently within the budget a recommendation, more than a recommendation, an appropriation appropriating \$1.9 million less in state aid to education than is being distributed this year.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, excuse me. (Gavel.)

SENATOR WITHEM: Shall I repeat that again, Senator Barrett, for...?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Please do.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay. One more time, there is currently within the budget a \$1.9 million decrease in state aid to education. This amendment restores the money so that school districts in the state that are receiving state aid to education will receive the same dollar amount in '87-88 that they received in '86-87. There has been a lot of talk today about voting for tax increases. If you support the current budget for state aid to education you are voting for a tax increase. True, you are not voting for a sales tax increase, you're not voting for an income tax increase, but you are voting to tax the citizens of Nebraska \$1.9 million more in property taxes. Since I have been in this body, strong an advocate of state aid to education as I am, since I have been in this body I have watched, usually speaking against, always voting against, but I have watched this body decrease appropriations in state aid to education by over \$10 million. We have cut more than 7 percent out of our overall budget in state aid to education since I have been here. The budget which is called a maintenance budget, a continuation budget, it's true, it continues to cut state aid to education by